

Volare Lowchen History

The question was asked “How did you get involved with the Lowchen?” When I think back, it was really quite by fluke – we followed up an ad in the paper because we did not know what a Lowchen was and we came home with a small dominant five year old female that had been imported into Canada from the UK by Kim Schmidt.

A couple of events came into play that led to this decision. First of all, my 12 year old Borzoi and lead dog in my house died. She was greatly missed and it took some time before I could think of getting another dog – we had always had two. My husband and I had grown up always having family pets – his family had Boxers and Bullmastiffs and mine had the more traditional German Shepherds and Labs. We got our first Borzoi after we were married in the 1970’s and I began a casual hobby of owning and showing purebred dogs. (I finished titles on my mother-in-laws Bullmastiff; I showed my sister’s Dandie Dinmont Terriers as well as getting titles on my two Borzois.) I got involved with the Borzoi Canada Club when it was in the throes of change and was their Club Secretary for a few years. We did a breeding of my Borzoi that did not take, had my first experience with A.I. that also did not take – learned about thyroid conditions and started looking seriously at commercial dog foods and vaccination protocols after attending a seminar by Jean Dodds way back in the 1980’s.

When Classic died, my 5 year Oreo just grieved her absence. I struggled too – some companions are just not replaceable...but we began looking for a new dog. We were visiting my in-laws and met their champion Tibetan Terrier. Their breeder had a litter on the ground that we went to see and they were just so cute and soft and a manageable size but I was not quite ready yet. When we got home, Oreo in her excitement that we were back, dragged my 11 year son down the side walk resulting in head to toe road rash and stitches, and my 7 year old daughter asked if we could get a dog that she could walk...



Cleview Victorian Gem

They say that timing is everything and Kim’s ad was in the paper the next week for ‘Lowchen’.

In 1990, Kim Schmidt (Canada) imported **Cleview Victorian Gem** in whelp from Janet Perret-Green (then in England). After having her pups, Kim found that Gemma needed to be re-homed because she was fighting with the other breeding females. I was in need of a ‘boss’ dog for my ‘beta’ temperament Borzoi, as well as a small dog that my 7 year old daughter, and so it was a match! In summer 1991, Gemma came home, took stock and settled in to teach me the joys of living with Lowchen

Part of the deal was that I would help Kim in the last stages of paperwork required to get the breed recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club and that we would breed

Gemma again. In 1992, a singleton litter gave me my first Lowchen pup. This brown and cream female became Volare Hot Fudge Sundae, ROM and 'Volare' Lowchen began. My kennel name came from a word search where I found that in old French 'Volare' means 'joyful; lively' and it seemed appropriate as a registered kennel for breeding Lowchen.

As a neophyte to the breed, I looked at Gemma and Fudge and made my best guess at what their strengths and weaknesses were and then set about importing two more Lowchen. One female, **Ch Galaxy's Magic Moment, ROM** was chosen because her dam was an English import from the Melfield kennel which was founded on a Gemma daughter. 'Jasmine' had rock solid patella, perfect teeth and a lovely square shape. Her sire was the number one Lowchen in the USA so I figured that there must be good stuff back there too.



The other import, **Ch Lambert's Jack the Giant Killer**, was a solid black boy that came from a very 'old' pedigree in that by the fifth generation back, the dogs in his pedigree were original dogs imported to the USA from Dr. Rickart of Germany. It gave me a sense that the line was still relatively unchanged from the founding dogs of Madame Bennert. Jack also had perfect teeth and eyes, solid patella and the sweetest temperament. These new dogs from the USA had significantly different looking heads than my

'English' dogs and Jack brought in a much different coat and I started to learn about 'type'crash course!



I was asked to identify which Lowchen that I most admired and which Lowchen have had the most significant impact on my breeding program. I have yet to see a Lowchen that I think has "It All" but there are so many outstanding

Lowchen that have ‘most of it’. Just from pictures (and that can never tell the whole story), I loved the look of Earle Marie Dingles’ dogs in the 1995 LCA yearbook – what I was looking at were well balanced dogs with great angulations. I loved the look of the Duncara Lowchen heads and Janet Perret-Green got it to show up pretty consistently in her line as seen in the UK Lowchen yearbooks in the 1990’s. What I was looking for was a combination of both!



Ch Volare Extra Rich Cappuccino

In my own line, **Ch Volare Extra Rich Cappuccino** was a second generation Volare Lowchen and a marriage of English and USA lines. He was my first Lowchen to win at Group, to win a LCC National Specialty Show, to be an amazing stud dog (although very stringy producing daughters) producing Championship progeny, as well as being a smart, athletic, kind, tolerant Lowchen companion.



Ch Volare Grande Dorsey ROM

Ch Volare Grande Dorsey ROM was a third generation Volare Lowchen and the culmination of all my foundation stock as grandparents. She was just over 12 inches tall, lovely square shape, finished her title young and became a phenomenal brood bitch. She had perfect eyes, teeth, coat, solid patella, and sound conformation in general. She was sweet, if a little neurotic, but I put that down to limited socialization – my fault, not hers.



Ch Mike Mar Filibert for Volare

Ch Mike Mar Filibert for Volare is my next choice of dogs that significantly impacted my breeding program. She was a Dorsey grand-daughter out of a Baluchstan dam, and she brought wonderful conformation and movement – great shoulders to my line. Bred to a Chino son, they gave me **Ch Volare Noble Nicolai** who is as near to my ideal Lowchen as I have yet to get. Nico has wonderful type, conformation, attitude and temperament and he is passing it on to his offspring...not much more that one can ask of a breeding dog! Now this outstanding offspring is also getting genes from **Ch Volare Make Mine Sexy (Lexi)** who is sired by Baggio, all English line breeding from Fudge's first litter, out of Dorsey.

These are the babies that I have in the show rings now and I am pleased with what Volare has contributed to the Lowchen as a breed.



Ch Volare Noble Nicolai



Ch Volare Make Mine Sexy

Concurrently to breeding and showing Lowchen, I have been a member of the LCA and the UK Lowchen Clubs since 1994. I was one of the founding members of the Lowchen Club of Canada in 1994 and served on the executive for 10 years (Treasurer and Membership Secretary for 6 years and then Club President for 4 years). I wrote the Lowchen Breedlines column for the CKC monthly magazine "Dogs in Canada" for the last 12 years and designed the LCC pins – limited editions of 100 of each. I am a member of the CKC. I have attended every LCC National Specialty since we held our first annual event in 1996 and sat as Show Chairman for several....only with a lot of help from very capable Club members!



**Nancy Inlow with Volare Ritzy Rafferty
Best Puppy in Group – July 2006**

The Lowchen have been rare and entertaining companions that have filled all the needs of my own family as well as the many families that we have placed pups with over the years. They have been with us as my children moved through their teens into their twenties and while my husband adjusted to progressively debilitating MS. They have been educational (sex-ed at the Inlow's), empathic, and entertaining. The puppies have reminded us all of the cycle of life and to remember to enjoy the moments because they are always changing. After being involved with the breed for 15 years, I have come to believe they are a perfect urban dog.